

Results of Southern blot analysis

All genomic digests and their corresponding Southern blots followed an identical lane order as described in Table I.

5 **Table I**

Lane	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strain	1 kb molecular Weight Marker	515	A909	SB35	H36B	18R21	1954/92
Serotype		Ia	Ia	Ib	Ib	II	II

Lane	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Strain	118/158	97/0057	BM110	BS30	M781	97/0099	3139
Serotype	II	II	III	III	III	III	IV

Lane	15	16	17	18	19	20
Strain	1169-NT	GBS 6	7271	JM9	Group A Streptococcus	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>
Serotype	V	VI	VII	VIII	—	14

- 10 For comparative purposes, it was decided to analyse the serotype distribution of the GBS *rib* gene, which encodes the known protective immunogen Rib. Rib has previously been shown to be present in serotype III and some strains of serotype II but not in serotypes Ia or Ib (Stralhammar-Carlemalm *et al.*, 1993). Confirmation of this pattern would not only give increased confidence in interpreting subsequent results, it would also determine if a *rib* gene homologue was present in the remaining GBS